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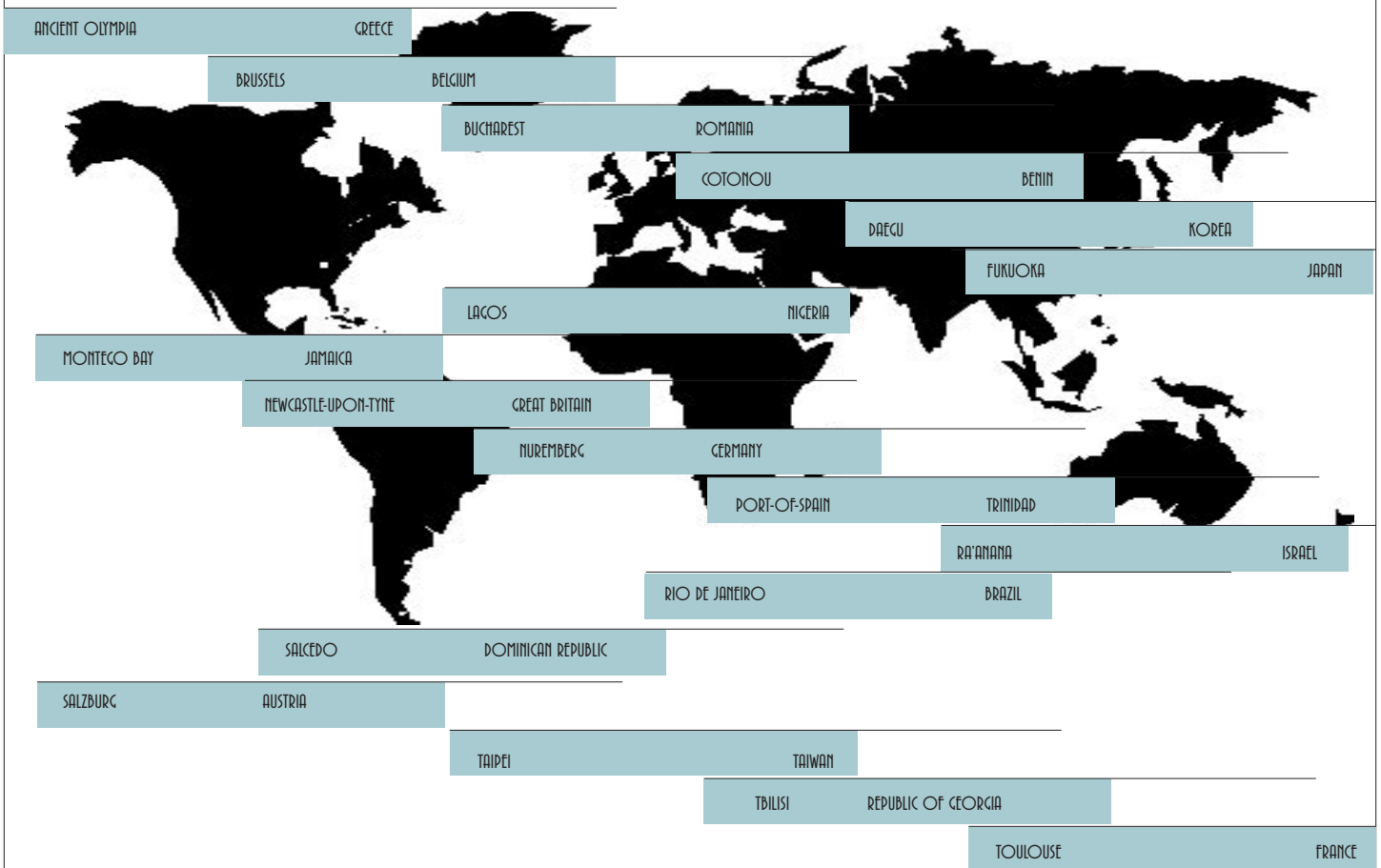
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A T L A N T A • S I S T E R • C I T I E S C O M M I S S I O N

2004

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ATLANTA • SISTER • CITIES

COMMISSION

2004

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TO

The Honorable Shirley Franklin
Mayor, City of Atlanta

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The Honorable Lisa Borders
President, Atlanta City Council

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FROM

Dr. John Eaves
Chair
Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

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I am pleased to submit to you the 2004 Annual Report of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC).

In addition to the activities of the various committees, ASCC has met monthly to carry out its role and function in relation to Atlanta's Sister Cities program.

We were pleased to serve the City of Atlanta and its international community during 2004 and look forward to the continued growth and expansion of the Sister Cities program under your administration.

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2004 INTRODUCTION

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The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC) was chartered by the City of Atlanta and codified in Atlanta City Ordinance No. 1979-71. The organization is managed by a Chair, elected by the ASCC membership. The appointee must be ratified by a majority of the Atlanta City Council. John Eaves, Ph.D. was elected as Chair, and Young Kang as Vice Chair, in 2004.

The full 'board' of the Commission comprises the Chair, three additional Mayoral appointees and two members appointed by the City Council. In addition, the chairpersons of each Sister City Committee, or their designee, serve on the Commission.

The Mayor's appointed members in 2004 were Cedric Suzman, Ph.D. and Samuel Bacote. Debra Snell was appointed by the City Council.

Elections are held annually to select a Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Each elected officer serves a one-year term. Elected officials of the Commission are restricted to two consecutive terms in office.

Officers include:

Secretary
Treasurer

Charleise Young, Ph.D.
Nick Modares

Other standing committees of the Commission are listed opposite.

Staff

The Commission is supported by the staff of the International Affairs Division of the Mayor's Office. The staff participates in monthly and special meetings, helps shape the Commission's policy and acts as liaison with the Mayor. In 2004, Claire McLeveigh played a vital role as coordinator for the Mayor's Office.

ASCC maintains a web site with press releases, annual reports and information on each of the sister cities.

www.atlantaga.gov/International/SisterCities.aspx

Atlanta's Sister City Committees

Name of City	Date of Affiliation	Chair/Representative
Ancient Olympia - Greece	1994	Margo Alexander, Ph.D.
Brussels - Belgium	1983	
Bucharest - Romania	1994	Mr. Nick Modares
Cotonou - Benin	1995	Charleise Young, Ph.D.
Daegu - Korea	1981	Mr. Young Kang
Fukuoka	2005	Ms. Sumiko Renfroe
Lagos - Nigeria	1974	Augustine O. Esogbue, Ph.D.
Montego Bay - Jamaica	1972	Mr. Vin Martin, Atty
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne - Great Britain	1977	Mr. David Smith
Nuremberg - Germany	1998	Ms. Teri Simmons, Atty
Port-of-Spain - Trinidad	1987	Ms. Norma Kendall - Hamlet
Rio de Janeiro - Brazil	1972	Mrs. Wilma Kruger
Ra'anana - Israel	2000	Arnold Heller, Ph.D.
Salcedo - Dominican Republic	1996	Mr. Victor Ramirez
Salzburg - Austria	1967	
Taipei - Taiwan	1974	Mr. David Chang/David Yu
Tbilisi - Republic of Georgia	1988	BG (R) Thomas McCullough
Toulouse - France	1974	Mrs. Betty Davis

Atlanta Sister Cities Commission - Standing Committees

Committee	Chair
Executive Committee	John Eaves, Ph.D.
Fund Raising Committee	Cedric Suzman, Ph.D.
Nominating Committee	Vin Martin, Atty
Economic Development	Young Kang
Education	Charleise Young, Ph.D.
Public Relations	David Smith
New Cities	Augustine O. Esogbue, Ph.D.

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The New Cities Development Committee

❖ Currently, the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC) has 18 official partnerships. In recent times, the interest to become a sister city of Atlanta has increased immensely as evidenced by the volume of such requests. Thus, the decision to establish additional relationships is becoming very strategic and competitive. The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission New Cities Development Committee (NCDC) is charged with the duty of determining whether or not there is potential for a successful linkage between Atlanta and an applicant city from nations around the world. This decision is based on the following:

- ❖ Municipal compatibility;
- ❖ Existence of a core group of committed individuals to develop and maintain the relationship, both in Atlanta (applicant sponsor group) and the applicant city; and
- ❖ Documentation that communicates potential for successful facilitation of cultural, civic, and educational, technical, economical and business exchanges on a continual basis.
- ❖ Cities interested in fostering a sister city relationship with Atlanta may contact the Mayor's Office of International Affairs or submit a formal inquiry via e-mail to receive the application electronically. Upon receipt of the completed application, NCDC assesses the application package. Applicant cities must be certain to thoroughly complete the application and provide substantial supporting documentation. Materials that offer NCDC a virtual tour of the applicant city can enhance the application. Examples of supportive documentation include:
- ❖ Graphic illustrations
- ❖ City promotional materials
- ❖ City books, maps
- ❖ Statistical data
- ❖ Videos, dvd, cd-rom and other multi-media presentations
- ❖ Data regarding industries, universities, businesses, and public facilities.

Signing of
the Atlanta
- Fukuoka sister
city twinning by
Mayors Franklin
and Yamasaki
(February 2005)



❖ Upon review of the application materials presented, the ASCC or the NCDC might invite the applicant sponsor group to make a presentation. The NCDC will then:

- ❖ Determine whether a twinning is appropriate
- ❖ Submit a recommendation to ASCC for a vote
- ❖ Forward ASCC recommendation to the Mayor for approval*
- ❖ Represent the ASCC and the Mayor's office, as necessary, during City Council approval process
- ❖ Participate in arrangements for twinning ceremonies upon final approval by City Council.

*The Mayor submits a formal recommendation to the City Council for final approval.

A City, when finally accepted as a sister city of Atlanta, is expected to assume its seat on the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission. Although the formal process outlined in the foregoing may be involved, it is rewarding for compatible applicant cities.

During the 2004 program year, the NCDC received over 8 serious expressions of interest. Three of these, Hyderabad, India, Cordova, Argentina and Ramallah, on the West bank of Palestine reached the formal application stage. The NCDC worked with groups such as the Atlanta Committee on International Relations (ACIR), the Consulate of Japan, and the Mayor's Office of International Affairs to plan the formal twinning ceremonies between Atlanta and Fukuoka, Japan. ASCC continued its strategic interest and initiatives in identifying viable relationships with cities in East and Southern Africa as well as China. Aspects of these strategies were imbedded in the ASCC Strategic Plan which was formulated during the year.

Twinning Ceremonies

- ❖ Typically, a visit to the new city by a high level delegation from Atlanta occurs soon after an official notification by the Mayor of Atlanta of the City Council's approval of the Mayor's recommendation for a twinning relationship. The sister city relationship is formally established during an official twinning ceremony formalized by the Mayor of Atlanta and the new city's Mayor.
- ❖ The sponsor group of the new city is responsible for assisting in the planning of a memorable and festive trip to Atlanta, along with the Mayor's Office of International Affairs, ASCC, and NCDC. Active participation by officials of the City Council of both cities is encouraged. The new city Mayor and delegation (including person(s) from the core group) are hosted over a 3- 5 day period. The actual twinning ceremony occurs in the Atlanta City Hall, and the official document is signed between both Mayors. The official twinning is the final formal process that marks the beginning of a successful sister city relationship.

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Atlanta's newest Sister Cities - Fukuoka, Japan

Ceremonies taking place in February 2005 marked the inauguration of Atlanta's newest sister, Fukuoka, Japan.

- ❖ With a population of 1.4 million, Fukuoka is located in the northern part of Kyushu region in West Japan, close to Korean Peninsula and facing Sea of Japan.



Gateway city

- ❖ Fukuoka City has the geographical advantage of being close to the Chinese Continent and has played an important role as a gateway through which culture and knowledge from China and other Asian countries were introduced to Japan since olden times. Based on its historical experiences, Fukuoka has promoted city planning with the aim of becoming a "focal point of exchanges within Asia."

- ❖ Fukuoka is the center of West Japan. Many administrative and economic-related organizations are located here. A transportation network has also been developed that includes an international port, a bullet train terminal as well as an international airport with the third largest number of passengers and the third largest trade volume in Japan. The city is well equipped with the infrastructure to promote various exchange activities.



- ❖ Nineteen universities are located in the Greater Fukuoka Area, where more than 2000 foreign students study. Fukuoka has the second largest number of universities students per capita among the major cities in Japan.

Building on relationships

- ❖ Relationships have existed between Atlanta and Fukuoka since 1993 when Mayor Maynard Jackson and then Mayor Keiichiro Kuwahara signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural and Economic Cooperation. Also at that time, the Fukuoka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce signed an Agreement of Cooperative Promotion. Existing educational links include annual youth exchanges programs coordinated between Fukuoka City and the Atlanta Public Schools and also between Fukuoka University and Georgia Institute of Technology.

Economic links

- ❖ The headquarters of Coca Cola West Japan is located in Fukuoka and 40 U.S. companies such as P&G and Baxter as well as many other foreign companies are located in Fukuoka City. Their specializations range from medical equipment to information services. Japanese companies that have branches in both the Kyushu region and the Atlanta vicinity include Bridgestone Corp., Hitachi Ltd., Japan Airlines, Kubota Tractor Corp., Makita Corp., Mizuho Corporate Bank, Murata Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Nitta Corp., Sumitomo Corp., Toppan Printing Co. Ltd., TOSOH Corp., TOTO U.S.A Inc., Zenrin Co. Ltd., Yamaha Motor Corp., Yasuda Fire & Marine Insurance Co. and YKK Group, as well as the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). In addition, 26 Japanese companies with headquarters in Fukuoka also have offices in the United States.



Photo: Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin watches Fukuoka Mayor Hirotarō Yamasaki install the Japanese flag among the flags of nations in the Atrium of Atlanta City Hall (February 2005).

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Strategic Plan 2004 - 2010

❖ A major focus of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission during 2004 was to develop its strategic plan for the remainder of the decade. An external consultant was selected through a competitive bidding process and funded by the Advisory Council on International Relations to work with the Commission and Mayor's office through a series of discussions taking place during regular monthly meetings, at a multi-day retreat and in one-on-one discussion with Commission members.

❖ As part of the process, a review was conducted of the vision and strategic plan of the City of Atlanta and how its structure supports goal achievement. The review included departments within city, county and state governments as well as the functions of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission. The project scope included a review of the support provided to participating countries by the United Nations, which could help determine how sister city relationships might complement what foreign cities and their respective countries are currently doing to meet UN program goals. The project also incorporated interviews of external stakeholders, including members of the international business community, Atlanta's consular corps, and leading international experts in academia.

❖ After the initial review of the needs and opportunities and the survey results, opportunities were identified in which the ASCC could play a key role. People, government, economic, environment and operations were identified as the five strategic directions upon which ASCC will focus its programs and services in order to have a positive impact on the people of Atlanta and the world. The following focus areas targeted by Sister Cities International are included within this grouping:

- ❖ Arts and Culture
- ❖ Economic Development
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Environment
- ❖ Healthcare
- ❖ Humanitarian Assistance
- ❖ Municipal Cooperation
- ❖ Public Safety
- ❖ Sports
- ❖ Technology and Communications
- ❖ Youth

❖ **Strategic Direction: People** - Addressing the needs of people is crucial to the development and maintenance of positive relationships. The plan addresses a number of specific goals to be achieved by the commission under the subheadings of education, youth and sports; humanitarian assistance; and social, arts and culture. Goals include school exchanges, donations of food, goods and assistance, arts programs and public displays honoring ASCC and its partner cities.

❖ **Strategic Direction: Economic** - Ingenuity and exploration are two of the most important ingredients to a healthy economy and individual prosperity. The plan addresses a number of specific goals to be achieved in the areas of economic development and technology and communications. These include facilitating exchanges focused on business agendas and using technology to improve global communications.

❖ **Strategic Direction: Government** - Quality of life throughout the world is greatly determined by a nation's government. ASCC goals will address municipal cooperation and public safety through city-to-city dialogue, public information programs, city signage, visitor hosting, and technical exchanges.

❖ **Strategic Direction: Environment** - The gifts of natural resources given to one country and the care of them are essential to the well being of the world. ASCC will develop initiatives that address environmental protection.

❖ **Strategic Direction: Operations** - A healthy, well-organized and active organization is needed to make sure the ASCC is meeting its mission, vision and goals. The plan addresses organizational and resource development goals that will ensure that standing committees are operational, its roles are defined, its members briefed, financial and staff resource requirements are met and that it is participating fully in the national sister cities organization.



John Eaves and Claire McLeveighn display the UN flag prior to it being placed among the flags of nations in Atlanta City Hall. It was presented to Mayor Franklin on September 21, 2004 by UN Assistant Secretary General Dr. Marcel Boisard at the signing of an agreement between the City of Atlanta (Mayor Franklin) and UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) to locate a CIFAL (Centre International de Formation des Autorités Locales - International Training Centre for Local Authorities) in Atlanta.

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Atlanta - Ancient City of Olympia Sister City Committee

This year the Ancient Olympia commission has been involved in many activities.

❖ March 25th, Greek Independence Day was celebrated with the Greek Community here in Atlanta, GA with the Consul of Greece, Mr. Lambros Kakissis. Also in March, Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp, Co-chairman, went to Greece to visit with the Mayor of Ancient Olympia, Mr. Skoularikis and to attend the Olympic Flame Ceremony.



Margo Alexander with Mr. and Mrs. George Tsonis

❖ In May, Dr. Margo Alexander and Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp met with the Consulate of Greece, Mr. Lambros Kakissis and the Deputy Consul, Mr. George Tsonis to discuss relations between the two cities, a future study abroad program as well as the upcoming events for the Celebration of the Olympic Games.

❖ Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp, Co-chairman, went to Greece to meet with the Mayor of Ancient Olympia, Mr. Skoularikis in July. Discussions were about the upcoming 2004 Olympic Games in Athens Greece. The Atlanta Committee has worked very hard to assist Ancient Olympia in preparation for the 2004 Olympic Games. Also discussed was the future of a study abroad program exchange.

❖ The Olympic Flame returned to Atlanta, host of the 1996 Olympic Games, with a big celebration for the Greek Community here in Atlanta. Several members of the Greek Government and members of the 2004 Olympic Games were hosted.



Mr. Johnny Economy, Mr. D. Constantinides, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, Mr. P. Skandalakis, Mr. L. Kakissis, Dr. G. Kleris, and Mr. G. Plagianis.

❖ Dr. Margo Alexander, Mr. Lou Zakas, and Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp met with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece, Mr. Panayote Skandalakis on his visit to Atlanta in November. He will return to Atlanta for a follow up meeting in February 2005.

❖ Mr. Lou Zakas, founding chair of the Atlanta-Ancient City of Olympia Sister City Committee serves as the State Coordinator of Sister Cities International for the state of Georgia.



Lou Zakas



Athens Olympics 2004

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Atlanta - Cotonou Sister City Committee

- ❖ In April a delegation representing the committee visited Cotonou as participants in a study tour sponsored by UNESCO and organized through the auspices of PROMETRA, an organization that promotes and protects traditional medicine and indigenous science. Atlanta representatives included Dr. Charleise Young and Dr. Clowney who hosted a special meeting with the Mayor of Cotonou and former President of the Republic of Benin, the Honorable Nicephore Sogio.
- ❖ Students and faculty from Morehouse School of Medicine's Masters of Public Health program, Morehouse College and Spelman College of Atlanta also participated in the event, among participants from 12 nations. Its purpose was to ensure that world citizens of Africa understand the nation's history, civilizations, culture and its future. Activities included workshop sessions, dialogue with African leaders and policymakers, traditional Vodoun ceremonial and visits to village communities. In keeping with UNESCO's 2004 theme, the study tour focused on slavery and its impact on Africa and the world.



Atlanta Sister City representatives Dr. Charleise Young and Dr. Clowney make a formal presentation to Mayor Sogio.

Atlanta - Taipei Sister City Committee



- ❖ Taipei is the Capital City of the Republic of China (Taiwan). The sister-city relationship between Taipei and Atlanta, established in 1979, has proved mutually beneficial to both cities, providing the opportunity for economic, academic and cultural exchanges.

- ❖ A Taipei Sister City Goodwill Mission, led by Ms. Chih-Ping Wang, Taipei City Councilwoman, visited Atlanta January 26-28, 2005. The Mission included a performing troupe of the Acrobatics and Dance Department of the National Taiwan Junior College of Performing Arts, which performed on January 27 at Georgia State University's Rialto Center for the Performing Arts. The group's program featured a variety of crowd-pleasing, colorful numbers choreographed with dazzling acrobatics and dance.

- ❖ Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in

Director General R.C. Wu and Atlanta City Mayor Shirley Franklin, along with the Taipei Sister City Goodwill Mission Performing Group, gave a big thumbs up to audience members at the show's finale Jan. 27, 2005.



Atlanta, representing the interests of Taiwan in the Southeastern United States, hosted the Mission's visit. Mayor Shirley Franklin and Councilor Jim Maddox received the delegation and attended the performance in honor of Atlanta's long-standing sister city relations with Taipei.



From Left to Right: Director General R.C. Wu of TECO in Atlanta, Mr. David Yu, Chairman of Summit Bank, Mayor Shirley Franklin, City of Atlanta, Chih-Ping Wang, Taipei City Councilwoman, Ms. Claire McLeveigh, Office of the Mayor, and Mr. David Constant, Office of the Mayor.

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Atlanta - Bucharest Sister City Committee



❖ The Atlanta-Bucharest Sister City Committee is an organization that helps to hold together members of the Romanian community. It is about networking, educational, cultural, business, and economic development. We have been working very hard to overcome Romania's image as a former communist nation, and inform Atlantans, and Americans in general, that Romania and Bucharest is a safe, stable, and an attractive destination for Americans to travel and conduct business exchanges.

❖ Cultural Activities: The Atlanta-Bucharest Sister City relationship supports the efforts of the Romanian-American Cultural Foundation, which is a local metro-Atlanta cultural center, headed by a native of Romania. There have been many Romanian musicians visiting Atlanta and performing at various functions. The performances of Romanian folk musicians at different Atlanta Sister City functions are always well received.

❖ Calendar of major events in 2004: Nick Modares, chairperson of the Atlanta-Bucharest Sister City Committee, is an active member of the executive committee of the Atlanta Sister City Commission, and was elected as treasurer and a board member by the Commission for a second term. During a visit to Bucharest, Romania, Nick met with his counterpart, Dr. Doaga Raluca, in the Bucharest mayor's office. Dr. Raluca is the head of the European Integration and International Relations Department and handles the Atlanta-Bucharest Sister City relationship. Following a healthy discussion, the following areas of collaboration were discussed:

- ❖ Visits by office staff who are actively involved in the sister city relationship, from both Atlanta and Bucharest, at the City Hall of their sister city.
- ❖ Training and experience for youth, active with their local sister city commission, with the commission in the partner city, with accommodations provided by the host city.
- ❖ Meetings with experts in the fields of urbanism and urban development, local economic development, and rehabilitation of the infrastructure and public services, from prestigious institutions in both Atlanta and Bucharest.
- ❖ Variety of cultural and community events hosted by each city.
- ❖ Functions to present available business and foreign investment opportunities, hosted by each city.

Major Activities Planned for 2005:

- ❖ Work with the Romanian Embassy to re-establish an Honorary Consul Office in Atlanta.
- ❖ Develop a Web site.
- ❖ Through the Web site and other means, draw together all of the organizations and individuals known to have contacts with Romania, and especially with the city of Bucharest, to enable communication and mutual support as well as attract increased support for the Atlanta-Bucharest Sister City Committee.
- ❖ Continue current program and develop additional joint activities with Atlanta's many other sister city committees.
- ❖ Work with Victor Aileni in strengthening our two cities relationship; help several Romanian companies which are interested in buying security equipment from U.S.A.; and help several American companies which are ready to enter the Romanian market.

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Lagos-Atlanta Sister Cities Committee

❖ A feature of the relationship is the exchange of visits between leaders of the Lagos Atlanta Sister City Committee (LASCC) and the Atlanta Lagos Sister City Committee (ALSCC). Several LASCC members visited Lagos and Nigeria during the year. The list includes, LASCC Chairman, Dr. Austin Esogbue, Dr. Femi Ajayi, and Mr. Alani Ogunlade. Similarly, ALSCC members, Mr. E. Chike Nwanze and Mrs. Rose Okolie from Lagos visited Atlanta. Dr. Esogbue made several visits and conferred with the local leaders on their organization and various projects. An initial project for an environmental health awareness campaign, although funded by a local company, met with some stumbling blocks at the implementation phase, which required taxes adjudged exorbitant by the local project committee. Efforts led by Dr. Esogbue to obtain a waiver from appropriate government agencies proved abortive. A letter of introduction, prepared by Dr. Esogbue to the Governor of the Lagos State government to facilitate project implementation, was given to the ALSCC executive committee.

❖ ALSCC was certified as a member of SCI and paid membership dues. Mr. E. Chike Nwanze, the new Chairman of the ALSCC, visited Atlanta during his official visit to the U.S. Although the Mayor was unable to meet with him, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, Mr. Greg Pidgeon met with him and Dr. Esogbue. The Mayor's office was briefed on the operations of the Atlanta Lagos Sister City Committee and a discussion of some of the mutually beneficial projects ensued. Several areas of assistance were outlined for further consideration.

❖ Based on discussions with the ALSCC while in Lagos and subsequent inputs from a local joint committee of ALSCC and select officials of the Lagos Island City Council led by the Chairman (Mayor), Dr. Esogbue prepared a detailed pre-proposal for SCI to submit to USAID in response to the sustainable development model under the City Links program. The two key projects targeted within the urban guidance systems are, health care (municipal health services) and environmental management systems (built environment management).

❖ Dr. Esogbue sent letters of invitation and held meetings with U.S. Embassy officials re visas for delegates of ALSCC to attend the SCI Annual Conference in Dallas. Despite these efforts, the travel visas were denied to the key officials. The Committee views this as a longstanding and difficult problem, which impedes relationship between the two cities and the transfer of highly needed technology that could be beneficial to both cities but especially the ALSCC and Lagos.

❖ Dr. Esogbue provided several gifts to the hard working key officials of ALSCC including a digital camera for their use in documenting their activities. In turn, some useful documents were received for use in promoting Lagos to the Atlanta audience.

❖ Committee members continued to provide leadership to as well as active participation in various community activities. The list included the following:

❖ A send off party for departing Consul General of Nigeria, The Hon. Joe Keshi and his wife Mrs. Dayo Keshi, a member of the LASCC as well as Founding Chair of the Nigerian Women Association of Georgia (NWAG); Dr. Esogbue provided event sponsorship at the silver level while Mr. Ogunlade's African dance and cultural troupe provided entertainment;

❖ The annual fundraiser and scholarship banquet of NWAG featuring LASCC member and NWAG Vice Chair, Dr. Eugenia George;

❖ The Nigerian Independence Day bazaar and picnic organized by NWAG;

❖ The annual fundraiser of the African Children's Fund banquet;

❖ The Georgia Council for International Visitors' Consular Ball;

❖ Visits and lecture series on cultural riches of Lagos and Nigeria to Atlanta area schools;

❖ Organization of the African participation at the WSB TV annual July 4th Parade as part of the Atlanta Council on International Relations (ACIR) international contingent (see photo - below);



African participation in the ACIR international contingent in the July 4th parade.

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Lagos-Atlanta Sister Cities Committee (continued)

❖ Participation in the Athens Olympics and especially featuring LASCC member and renowned artist, Mr. Steve Allen who created the painting 'Continuing The Legacy' for DeKalb County and DITC that was unveiled during the 2004 Olympic Summer Games in Athens. Steve is a medalist in the United States Olympic Committee and the United States Sports Academy's Olympic Sport Art Contest for the 2004 Olympic Summer Games in Athens, Greece. He has created the painting 'Coming Full Circle' for the USOC and it is "official" artwork and poster for the 2004 Athens Olympic Summer Games. He presented and signed prints of 'Coming Full Circle' in Athens during the Games. Steve also recently created the painting 'Unity and Peace Through Sport' as an "official" gift from the State of California, host of the 1932 and 1984 Summer Olympics, to Athens, Greece. The painting was presented to the City of Athens, Greece during the 2004 Olympic Summer Games. His work is currently featured in a one-man exhibit at USOC headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The exhibition runs from January through Mid April 2005 (see photos, below and opposite).



Judge Mablean Ephram, Congresswoman Diane E. Watson, Steve R. Allen, Mayor Bakoyannis, U.S. Ambassador to Greece Miller & Mrs. Miller



Early Reese (USOC CFO), Dr. Marc Daniel Gutekunst (CEO Dekalb International Training Center), Steve R. Allen, Franciso Campo (USOC), Curt Hamakawa (USOC).



Dr. Esogbue with WSB News anchor Monica Kauffman at the Nigerian Women Association of Georgia event.

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Atlanta - Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee

❖ The Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee (the "Committee") has been in existence since 1972. The following committees have been designed to maximize the effectiveness of the relationship and to play upon the strengths of each City. The most active sub-committees are as follows

- Cultural Affairs
- Education
- Fundraising
- Health and Human Services
- Technology Transfer
- Tourism
- Trade and Commerce

❖ The Committee has 60 active members but draws upon wide community support to fund the many activities undertaken each year. Meetings are held once per month.

2004 Activities

❖ **Cultural Affairs:** The Committee played an active role with other Atlanta based Jamaican organizations in planning the celebration of Jamaica's 42nd independence anniversary. The Committee also held its annual gospel brunch at Atlanta City Hall featuring aspects of Jamaican Gospel music.

❖ **Education:** In keeping with our mission to assist in educating students in Montego Bay, the Committee provided financial support to a student attending Montego Bay High School.



Vin Martin (chair AMBSCC), Andrew Young, president and Sylvia Henry Ashley, VP, of GoodWorks International.

❖ **Fund Raising:** The Committee held its fourth annual fund raising golf charity tournament at Wolf Creek Golf Club. Additionally, our annual fund raising ball was held in September. The proceeds from these events were used in conducting our Health Mission and assisted in providing needed medicines to the underserved patients seen in Montego Bay.

❖ **Health and Human Services:** The eleventh annual medical mission to Montego Bay was undertaken in October, 2004. Our team comprising 37 physicians, nurses and other medical professionals provided needed medical care to over 2,800 patients during the 3 ½ days of the mission. The team also donated a significant quantity of medicine and medical supplies to these patients. Special attention was paid to the HIV/AIDS patients, several of whom are currently receiving their monthly supply of retroviral drugs through the assistance of the Committee.

❖ **Technology:** As part of our on-going efforts to assist the citizens of Montego Bay in experiencing the benefits of technology, the Committee presented two computers to a primary school in Montego Bay.

❖ **Other Events:** The Committee participated in raising funds and supplies for donation to our committee in Montego Bay due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan.



Dr. Blake checks the condition of the Mayor of Montego Bay during the eleventh annual medical mission.

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Atlanta - Newcastle Sister City Committee



- ❖ A trade and investment mission from Atlanta to Newcastle took place in October 2004 organized by the British American Business Group of Atlanta - one of the largest groups of its kind in the Americas. Approximately 20 participants represented a wide range of enterprises including software, medical, legal and financial services, telecoms, economic development agencies and others.
- ❖ The group was greeted by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle and provided with briefings on economic development, urban regeneration programs and industry sector information, prior to members pursuing individual appointments in the region.
- ❖ UK participating organizations included One Northeast regional development agency; Newcastle City Council; Newcastle/Gateshead Initiative; Northern Defence Industries; Newcastle's Centres of Excellence (Digital Technology, Life Sciences, Nanotechnology, Micro and Photonic Systems, New and Renewable Energies, and Process Industries); North East Chamber of Commerce, Newcastle University, Northumbria University; and UK Trade and Industry.
- ❖ The development agencies of Northern England continue to maintain an Atlanta office, which is actively engaged in identifying companies throughout a 7-state territory that would benefit from using the region's resources in the field of information technology, in areas such as networks, telecommunications, financial services, back office systems and medical technology.



Atlanta - Nürnberg Sister City Committee

- ❖ The members of the Nürnberg/Atlanta Sister City Committees serve on a volunteer basis to promote the relationship between Atlanta and Nürnberg in the areas of business, culture, fine arts, religion and education. Exchange in these areas has been supported by private sponsorships from companies and by the Office of International Relations of the City of Nürnberg. Teri A. Simmons serves as the Chair of the Atlanta Committee, Jörg Reichelsdorfer serves as the Chair of the Nürnberg Committee, Dr. Norbert Schürgers serves as the Director of the Nürnberg Office of International Relations and Christina Plewinski is the Director of Atlanta/Nürnberg relations and our contact at the Office for International Relations in Nürnberg.
- ❖ In 2004, the Nürnberg and Atlanta sister city committees jointly planned many programs, including the following: American Citizen Information Evening; Guided Tour in Nürnberg's Modern Museum; Sister City Evening Event - Crossing Bridges; Exhibition -- The Ten New European Union States; Evening with Author David Ryback; Celebration of July 4, Independence Day; Joint Forum Going Global - Roedel & Partner; Guided Tour of the Dürer Path; Visit to the Jewish Museum in Fürth; Visit to the Levi Strauss Museum in Buttenheim.
- ❖ The committees also initiated the planning of a Women's Conference for Professional Women from Atlanta and Germany which will be held in April, 2005 to promote business relations between the women of Nürnberg and Atlanta. The Nürnberg Committee also participates in the Working Group of German Institutions which fosters American and German relations.



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Atlanta - Port-of-Spain Sister City Committee

❖ The purpose of the Atlanta/Port of Spain Sister City Committee is to provide a structure to allow people to give expression of their common desire for friendship and understanding, by initiating, developing, promoting and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships. The activities pursued by APSCC shall be educational, cultural, civic and business development in nature. The sister city relationship was established in 1987 and there are 15 committee members.

2004 Highlights

- ❖ Visit by members of the Cultural Committee and friends to Trinidad for Carnival Celebrations. Visitors were hosted at several events by the Port of Spain/Atlanta Sister City Committee.
- ❖ Exhibition of Highlights of 2004 Carnival in Trinidad to groups of international students and a private showing to an audience of 150 persons. (Cultural Committee March/April/May 2004.)
- ❖ Participated in the Caribbean Folk Festival in May 2004.
- ❖ Visit to Trinidad by the Chairperson in June 2004 to assist in the development of plans for a Trade Mission in November 2004. The visit also incorporated discussions on the development of youth exchanges, youth development, friendship through education, service organization linkages, United Nations linkages, UN-Habitat, UNESCO and international linkages.
- ❖ Trade Mission (November 09 – 13, 2004) led by Ambassador Jerry Narace, and included the Consul General for Trinidad & Tobago – Mr Clement James (Miami based), the Mayor of Port of Spain - Murchinson Brown, Ms. Dixie Rampersad and other representatives from TIDCO, the Chair of the Port of Spain/Atlanta Sister City Committee – Gia Gaspard-Taylor, Asst. Commissioner of Police – Dennis Graham, Fire officer – Keith Greaves, City Ambassador – Rea Catherine George.
- ❖ The delegation met with Mayor Shirley Franklin on November 10th to discuss possible business opportunities between both regions. At the conclusion of the meeting Mayor Murchinson Brown presented the flag of the City of Port of Spain to Mayor Franklin (see photograph - opposite).
- ❖ Several business meetings were arranged for the party, and meetings and training opportunities were arranged for the representatives of the Police, Fire, and Ambassadors departments.

- ❖ At the conclusion proposals were drafted for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Atlanta Police Department and the Trinidad & Tobago Police Services, and also between the City Ambassadors of Atlanta and Port of Spain.
- ❖ Prepared Thanksgiving Dinners for international students attending metro-Atlanta colleges and universities - November.
- ❖ Christmas party for international students who could not visit with their families - December.



Above: The flag of the City of Port of Spain is presented to Mayor Franklin. (L-R Ambassador Jerry Narace, Gia Gaspard-Taylor - President Port of Spain/Atlanta Sister City Committee, Mayor Shirley Franklin, Consul General Clement James, Norma Kendall-Hamlet - President Atlanta/Port of Spain Sister City Committee, and Mayor Murchinson Brown.)

Right: Mayor Franklin meets Cynthia Alfred, Secretary of Health and Social Services in Tobago, who visited Atlanta in August on a fact finding mission for elderly care.



2004 COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City Committee



❖ In February, ARSCC member Lavon Mercer was highlighted in the Israeli press for his athletic contributions to Israel. Mercer, who played for Israeli professional teams for 15 years, has a new role as Public Relations Ambassador for Israel in Atlanta.

❖ The Bilu Elementary School of Ra'anana sent its first package of 60 pen pal letters to Epstein School fifth graders with the Yavneh and Ariel elementary schools following up with 55 and 90 more letters to Epstein students.

❖ Leslye Knox, whose husband Ronnie Ellis was killed in a terrorist bombing, moved from Ra'anana to Atlanta in March. Leslye, who has six children and is a former Black Hebrew, received ARSCC advisement on obtaining support from the One Family Fund and local resettlement agencies.

❖ Stuart Shalev, who started the twinning between Ra'anana's conservative Congregation Masorti and Atlanta's Congregation Shearith Israel, died in March after a long fight with cancer.

❖ The ARSCC, on June 16, circulated an e-mail appeal to raise funds for the Wheelchairs for Peace Project. \$10,000 sends 280 wheelchairs to an Israeli sister city or \$35.70 a wheelchair.

❖ In July, Arnold Heller, Aaron Bernstein and Myrna Cohen began developing a strategic plan for the ARSCC.

❖ The ARSCC and the Marcus Jewish Community Center (MJCC) had hosted Ra'anana's Rimon Junior High basketball team August 1 – 10, 2003. Rimon and Ra'anana expected to reciprocate in July 2004 but a local exchange team consisting of City of Atlanta and suburban teen-aged basketball players has had to be postponed until June 2005.



❖ In October, Stuart Shalev's dream of Congregations Masorti and Atlanta's Shearith Israel twinning took off. On Monday November 1, Howard and Ronnie Zandman of the Shearith Israel Synagogue read Torah and 'broke bread' with the Masorti congregation; and on Thursday, Nov. 25, Howard and Andrea Slomka of Shearith Israel also read Torah and celebrated with Masorti congregants.

❖ On November 7, Tom Glaser, American-Israel Chamber of Commerce (AICC) President, led a delegation of 12 Atlantans on a mission to Israel and Ra'anana. Ilan Friedman, Israel Director for the Chamber and who recently relocated to Ra'anana, organized a visit to three local companies; Brainsgate, CheckM8 and NESS. NICE, known for their innovative security technology systems and who have developed business in Atlanta with the Federal Reserve System and Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, hosted a reception for the mission.

❖ In December, Arnold Heller, ARSCC Chair, was elected Atlanta Sister City Commission Vice Chair (2005).

❖ Ra'anana Mayor Zeev Bielski, on Dec. 19, invited an Atlanta Public School student exchange delegation to join 666 Ra'anana high school students in Warsaw, Poland Aug. 23 – 30, 2005 to honor the 60th anniversary of the Holocaust.

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Atlanta - Salcedo Sister City Committee

Commemoration of the Dominican Independence Day

- ❖ On February 27, members and guests of the Dominican International Association and the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister City Committee commemorated the 160th Dominican Independence Day at the Atlanta City Hall Atrium.
- ❖ On behalf of the citizens of Atlanta and the Honorable Mayor Shirley Franklin, Mayor's Chief of Staff Greg Pridgeon presented a proclamation to recognize the contributions that Dominican nationals have made to the economic growth and well-being of the city.

2004 Dominican Gala at the Atlanta City Hall



L to R: Greg Pridgeon, Mayor's Chief of Staff, Amelia Vega, Miss Universe, Parker Geiger, President of Impression Management and Victor Ramirez, President of the Dominican International Association and Chair of the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister City Committee.

- ❖ As expressed by Atlanta City Government

officials, it was the first time that a Miss Universe visited the City during her reign. The Dominican native Amelia Vega, Miss Universe 2003-2004 was the honored guest of the 2004 Dominican Gala where she received the Mirabal Sisters Award for her efforts with many charitable organizations worldwide. These include the Harvard AIDS Institute, In Gods Love We Deliver, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS Children and Families Initiative among others.

- ❖ This year the Dominican International Association, joined by the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, presented the Butterflies International Award to Mexican artist of the trio Los Panchos Rafael Basurto for his contributions towards promoting cross-cultural connections among the international community.



The "Mirabal Sisters Award" is presented to Amelia Vega, Miss Universe, by Victor Ramirez, president of the Dominican International Association.



Atlanta City Hall. From L to R: Ana Ramirez, Victor Ramirez and Amelia Vega meet with Marina Palacio and Gus Staats of Casa Blanca Restaurant.

- ❖ As major sponsors of the 2004 Dominican Gala, we had Impression Management, Casa Blanca Restaurant, AirTrain Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, Renaissance Hotel, DM Entertainment Productions and Pro-Bro Automotive.

- ❖ The presence of Miss Universe Amelia Vega in Atlanta was covered by CNN, Univision and the most important Hispanic radios, newspapers and magazines.

Ms. Clelia Montes de Oca, secretary and director of cultural affairs of the Dominican International Association and Amelia Vega, Miss Universe.



Outstanding Georgia Citizen and Goodwill Ambassador

- ❖ At the "Third Awards Gala 2004" sponsored by La Vision Newspaper and held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, downtown Atlanta, on May 14th, Victor Ramirez (chair, Atlanta - Salcedo Sister City Committee) was the recipient of 'La Vision Award' in the category of Education in recognition for his contributions promoting inclusion and diversity in our society.



- ❖ Secretary of State Cathy Cox granted the "Outstanding Georgia Citizen" certificate and proclaimed Victor as 'Goodwill Ambassador' of Georgia.

Victor Ramirez receives "La Vision Award" at the Grand Hyatt Hotel Downtown Atlanta.

2004 COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Atlanta - Rio de Janeiro Sister City Committee



Overlooking Rio de Janeiro, 'Bota Fogo' Bay with Famous Sugar Loaf in background.

❖ The 2004 was a great year for the Atlanta-Rio de Janeiro Sister City Committee. It was a year with new challenges, fresh ideas and remarkable results.

❖ Lisa Calhoun, our committee's chair from 1999 - 2004 had the goal to empower the Brazilian community and build strong relationships with other Brazilian organizations. After years of work Ms. Calhoun decided to retire from the position while continuing to support the committee as a member. She and the committee worked in drafting, revising and adopting the bylaws through a 5 month process. In June 2004 elections were held and a new chair and board members were elected.

❖ Wilma Kruger received unanimous approval from the members of the committee as the new chair. She is originally from Minas Gerais, Brazil with Christian European background. She has an engineering and architecture background and graduated from the University of Berlin, Germany. Also elected as board members were Murilo Neto - Vice Chair, Erik Voss - Secretary and Meghan Armstrong - Treasurer.



Wilma Kruger and Lisa Calhoun

❖ The committee's strategic plan was to have two main efforts besides working in partnership with other organizations to make the relationship between Atlanta and Rio de Janeiro/Brazil even tighter. These two main efforts were a trade trip to Brazil sponsored by TAM Airlines, the biggest Brazilian Airline; and a fundraising award ceremony benefitting orphanages while also recognizing important leaders of the community in Atlanta who have been working unselfishly for years.

Projects

❖ *Restructure of the committee's communications:* In 2004 our committee establish an effective way to communicate among members and with others through a Yahoo Internet message group. A brand new Web site was also developed with information about the city of Atlanta, the city of Rio de Janeiro, activities and news from our committee.

Cultural events:

- ❖ We supported the 2nd Capoeira Baptizado from group Candeias.
- ❖ In July 2004 we joined as member of Atlanta Rescue and Restore Coalition against trafficking in persons.
- ❖ Committee members were present at the Rialto venue to welcome Balé de Bahia - an Afro-Brazilian dance and music performance group that travels around the world showing a new view of the traditions from the state of Bahia.
- ❖ Our committee sponsored the closing reception of the Latin American Film Festival of High Museum of art. We contracted Roberto Gonçalves, a Brazilian musician to play some traditional Brazilian tunes with his acoustic guitar to the present crowd.

Main Efforts

- ❖ *Trade Trip:* We had a great opportunity to meet government officials from Mato Grosso do Sul, which is the fastest growing Region in Brazil for agriculture and cattle raising farms. Another area that we had contact with was the touristic area, especially Recife, Salvador and Rio de Janeiro.
- ❖ We had the opportunity to meet in Sao Paulo, companies interested to export from Brazil to Georgia. We also had meetings with professors and scientists from the Sao Paulo area. In Rio, we had meetings with officials from the Mayor's office to plan the next trip to Brazil and ways to build better relationships with the Sister City Committee. Brazil is going through a phase of rapid development and we believe that now is a good time to develop a good relationship with this great nation.

2004 COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Atlanta - Rio de Janeiro Sister City Committee (continued)

❖ *Fundraising Award Ceremony*: Our fundraiser and awards ceremony had three goals: to raise funds for LifeLink's outreach in Brazil, to recognize individuals who have made an enduring positive impact in Atlanta's Brazilian community, and to celebrate the revitalization of the Atlanta-Rio Sister City Committee. The Keynote speaker was Benedita da Silva, she became the first woman to be elected Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro in 2002 and on December 23rd, 2003 the President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva appointed Benedita as Minister of Social Affairs of Brazil.



L-R: Wilma Kruger, Mayor Shirley Franklin, Minister of Social Affairs Benedita da Silva, and Claire McLeveighn.

❖ We had an excellent attendance and a donation to our partner non-profit organization, LifeLink for Children was above our expectations. After paying all the vendors the funds that we raised for LifeLink were delivered by volunteers in the form of medicines and supplies in Rio de Janeiro. The guests were a representation of a culturally diverse mix, primarily Brazilian émigrés, who are upwardly mobile, community oriented, and politically active. It was a special evening with a traditional Brazilian dinner, an art show to showcase local Brazilian fine artists and a live band to play the best tunes to the crowd. We had the honor to have Greg Pridgeon, Atlanta City Hall Chief of Staff and Carlos Martel from State of Georgia representing the Governor.

❖ It is necessary to recognize the importance of the event to the Brazilian community since it showed to all that our community is united and Atlanta City Hall has opened its doors to reach out to the community. All the members of the committee were very proud to be part and responsible to make a dream come true.

❖ We also want to recognize all the sponsors that helped us realize this event - TAM Airlines, Fogão Gaucho, Brazilian Bakery, Blender Advertising, Brazil Atlanta, Barroso Limosines, Expeditions Travel, Felonta Décor, Fogo de Chão, L&M Video Productions, Milca Moura Decorations, Mundo Hispanico, Papa's Hair Salon, See You in Atlanta and Vision TRE.



Above and right: Minister Benedita Da Silva is welcomed at the Atlanta-Rio Fundraising Awards Ceremony.

2004 COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Atlanta - Tbilisi Sister City Committee



❖ The Atlanta Tbilisi Sister City Committee had opportunities to meet with several distinguished visitors during calendar year 2004. The year began with the election of the new President of the Republic of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili. The transition in government was smooth, and provided several new contacts for our committee.

❖ On March 9th the committee hosted a dinner for Richard Miles, US Ambassador to the Republic of Georgia. There was a large attendance, and the Ambassador

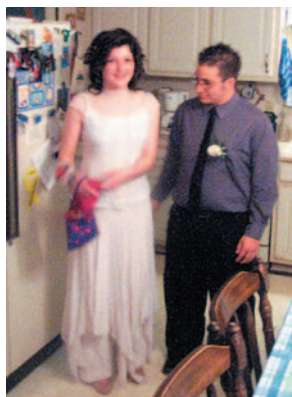
provided an excellent update on the political changes and new initiatives in the Georgian Republic.

❖ August was a very busy month with a visit by the new Georgian President, Mr. Mikheil Saakashvili. Members of the Atlanta/Tbilisi Sister City Committee had the opportunity to meet with him when he was hosted by the Southern Center for International Studies.



Nino Sesitashvili arrives at Atlanta Airport and is met by Mary McCullough and Madge Steiner.

❖ In July Tom and Mary McCullough agreed to host an exchange student from Tbilisi, Ms. Nino Sesitashvili. She is currently enrolled at McEachern High School for her senior year. Nino arrived on August 11th and started to McEachern the following week.



Nino Ready for Her First Dance in the U.S.

❖ The First lady of The Republic of Georgia, Sandra Roelofs, visited Atlanta in September. The Southern Center for International Studies hosted a reception in her honor, where many of the Atlanta/Tbilisi committee members had the opportunity to met and talk with her. This was a great opportunity for Nino, our exchange student, to meet and be photographed (above) with the First Lady of her country and Dr. Peter White, President of the Southern Center for International Studies.



❖ Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hassinger hosted a luncheon at the Indian Hills Golf Club on October 16th for Ms. Pat Moeller, Deputy Chief of Mission for the US Embassy in Tbilisi. Several members of the Sister City committee were present. Ms. Moeller gave a very informative briefing and update on new developments in Tbilisi and the Republic of Georgia. She also expressed a desire to initiate discussions between the Atlanta Zoo and the Tbilisi Zoo. This is currently being worked by the Committee.



❖ One of the highlights of our year was the presentation of the Tbilisi city flag to the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission Chairman, John Eaves. The flag was presented at the regular scheduled meeting on December 8th by Ms. Nino Sesitashvili. She told about the flag's design and symbolism.

❖ The committee also worked in support of Friendship Force and in particular Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hassinger in preparation of the shipment of humanitarian goods to the Republic of Georgia. Two 40ft. sea/land containers were shipped during 2004. Assistance was also provided to the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in preparation for their next mission trip to Georgia.

❖ We continued to monitor the progress of Bedzina Jgarkava, who the committee assisted in procuring medical treatment for Hepatitis C. Mr. Jgarkava completed his one year process of injections and was given a very good report by his doctors. General Samson Kutateladze was also provided treatment. He completed treatment in October, 2004, and is doing well.

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Atlanta - Toulouse Sister City Committee

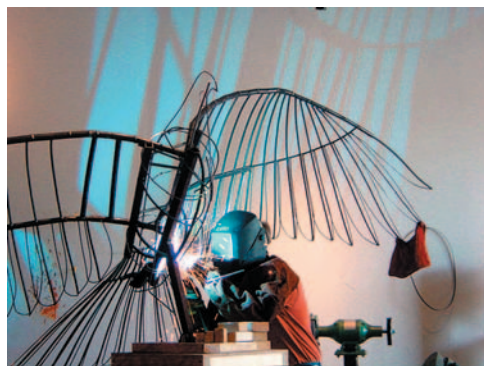


❖ On February 12th, members of the ATSCC visited the largest Saint-Gobain Desjonquères factory in the U.S., located in Covington. The company is a French manufacturer of perfume, pharmaceutical and cosmetic bottles.

❖ On April 5th, A Phoenix For Toulouse, Inc. (APFT) became a not-for-profit corporation and was granted 501 (c) (3) status from the IRS in July. A Phoenix For Toulouse, Inc. is commissioning a bronze statue of a Phoenix, symbol of the City of Atlanta, for Toulouse in memory of the events of September 21st, 2001. That day Toulouse suffered its greatest tragedy when an explosion at the AZF Grande Paroisse chemical factory killed

30 people and severely injured thousands. Atlanta artist David Landis conceptualized and created the work.

❖ From April 7th – 13th seventeen guests from Toulouse visited Atlanta staying in the homes of our



David Landis creating the Phoenix

members. They were entertained with receptions and parties in private residences, on a guided city tour, at Callaway Gardens, CNN, The Atlanta History Center, the Martin Luther King Center, the Cyclorama, and more. Many friendships were formed with this wonderful group. On April 15th the ATSCC was entertained by Toulousian jazz pianist Philippe Le Jeune.

❖ Jean-Luc Moudenc, a member of the UMP party, became the new mayor of Toulouse on May 6th, succeeding Philippe Douste-Blazy, who was appointed minister of Health in the French government on March 31st. Philippe Douste-Blazy remains president of the Greater Toulouse Council.

❖ In May there was an outing to a Polo match at the farm of ATSCC member Jack Cashin. Activities included a short polo lesson, a picnic and a champagne toast to the players after the match. Other individuals attended a French language theater performance by Théâtre du Rêve.



Delegation from Toulouse with ATSCC members at Centennial Olympic Park.

❖ The following month at the Oglethorpe's Conant Performing Art Center members saw the play «Cyrano de Bergerac» (by Edmond Rostand).

A Phoenix For Toulouse

❖ On September 10th the ATSCC and APFT held the third annual Wonderful World of Wine fundraising event at the Westin Buckhead Atlanta. A



David Landis finishing the claywork in his studio.

full buffet dinner was offered, desserts were prepared by the Cordon Bleu – Atlanta, and close to 200 individuals tasted four spectacular wines, Sommelier Yves Durand providing instruction on the proper way to taste them. Sponsors included many top companies, such as The Leader Publishing Group, The Westin, Concorde Hotels, Cartier, The Cordon Bleu – Atlanta, Baccarat Crystal and several others. Valerie Jackson and French Consul General Rene-Serge Marty both spoke on behalf of the Phoenix project.

❖ On October 21st, a cheese tasting took place at the Murray Mill.

❖ On November 19th, the group heard a presentation about *santons*, clay figures from the Provencal region of France. Also this month ATSCC chair, Betty Davis, traveled to France and met with the mayor's office in Toulouse in preparation for a diplomatic delegation coming to Atlanta in early 2005. There will be several individuals from the Toulouse city government, medical and business leaders and the president of the Toulouse-Atlanta Sister Cities Committee. The ATSCC is working with Claire McLeveigh and the French Consulate in Atlanta to prepare for this delegation.

❖ On December 21st, members attended the exhibition of *Van Gogh to Modrian* at the High Museum.

❖ The ATSCC currently has 122 paid members.

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Members of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission are sworn in by the Clerk of City Council (October 2004).

From left to right: David Chang Hong, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; Dr. Charleise Young, Cotonu, Benin; David Smith, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Great Britain; Dr. John Eaves, Regional Director of the Peace Corps, ASCC Chairman (appointed); From left to right: (back row) Norma Hamlett, Port of Spain Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Nick Modares, Bucharest, Romania; Wilma Kruger, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Margo Alexander, Ancient Olympia Greece; Dr. Augustine O. Esogbue, Lagos, Nigeria; Dr. Arnold Heller, R'anana, Israel; Betty Davis, Toulouse, France; Dr. Cedric Suzman, Southern Center for International Studies - (appointed).



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For information on Atlanta Sister Cities, contact

Mayor's Office of International Affairs

55 Trinity Street

Atlanta GA 30335

www.atlantaga.gov/International/SisterCities.aspx



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